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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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SMASH RACISM

And so it begins: On June 27, eight kkkops of Akron, Ohio fired at least 90 bullets at a Black young man, Jayland Walker and pierced his body over 60 times. Jayland, only 25 years young, is one of the 528 people murdered by police this year so far (Statist Research Department, 7/5). The U.S. police, descended from protectors of enslavers, function to terrorize the working class and protect the ruling class. As the bosses' system spins further into chaos and towards imperialist war, our class's main danger are the liberal bosses, also known as the Big Fascists.

The following are a few of the fights the Progressive Labor Party seeks to connect during this year's Summer Project. The cities highlighted—Chicago, Newark, New York City, and Los Angeles—reflect areas of fightback PLP is involved in, even through the pandemic.

When the bosses kill one of ours, they are sowing the seeds of their own destruction. Every single example you are about to read resulted in mass fightbacks. The mainly Black and Latin women workers who lead these campaigns defy the sexist gender roles that capitalism imposes on our class.

If we are immersed with these families and fighters for the long haul, these lifelong fighters will become the gravediggers of this racist, sexist, murderous capitalist system!

Four fighting cities:

LOS ANGELES, CA

Alex Flores: On November 19, 2019, the LAPD shot and murdered Alex, 34 years old, near South Central Avenue and East 28th Street. Through this work, more people understand the true role of the police in a capitalist society and see PLP as leading the fight against their racist terror.

For instance, PLP and other organizers met the Flores family for a BBQ and banner-making party to prepare for a protest during the height of the pandemic. By the end of the discussion, the family decided that they were going to find creative ways to fight back regardless of repression tactics used by the bosses. They also discussed the importance of keeping one another safe. During the protest a few days later, everyone present was diligent about remaining socially distant and taking safe health precautions.

The Flores family remains courageous and hasn't allowed their fight to diminish the two and a half years since Alex Flores was murdered. PLP has worked alongside the family and made it clear that our support is not going anywhere. This strong working class unity has empowered the community to be relentless against police terror.

BROOKLYN, NY

Shantel Davis: In June 2012 when NYPD "Bad Boy" Phillip Atkins shot Shantel Davis on E. 38 St. and Church Avenue members and friends of Progressive Labor Party responded immediately to the scene of the crime where a crowd of angry Black workers and youth had gathered. Marches to the 67 precinct, marches of a very militant character shutting down traffic for short periods on the side street where the precinct was located, became weekly

Continued on page 8

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★EDITORIAL *This sexist system—shut it down!.p2*

★NEWARK *Student-parent-worker unity wins, more fights ahead..p3*

★ COMMUNIST HISTORY *Milton connects Scottsboro struggle to Spain...p5*

★ FIGHTBACK *Shut this racist system down..p8*

SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:
@PLPchallenge

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

This sexist system —shut it down!

The U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade and demolishing the right to abortion is a brutally sexist attack on women workers, and particularly on Black, Latin and immigrant workers. Backed by gutter sexist Republicans and the domestically oriented faction of the capitalist ruling class, the Small Fascists, the Court is poised to escalate its attacks on workers and erase decades of hard-won reforms within the limits of the profit system.

Meanwhile, the rulers' long-dominant imperialist wing, the Big Fascist liberals of finance capital, are losing one fight after the next: on abortion and guns, on voting rights and climate action—not to mention the growing debacle in Ukraine. As U.S. capitalism spirals into decline, and the split within the bosses' ranks deepens, we have entered a period of extreme instability. The Big Fascists will stop at nothing—including full-blown fascism—to hold on to their power and their profits. They will try to use the backlash against the Supreme Court's decision to mobilize workers and to defend their empire from imperialist rivals China and Russia. They know they can't fight an imperialist war without women workers committed to their murderous system.

After the reversal of Roe v. Wade, tens of thousands of workers took to the streets in rage. Like the upsurge after George Floyd's murder, these protests show the potential of an angry and militant working class. These workers and millions like them must break the bounds of reformism to smash the blood-sucking bosses and create a new society run by and for our class—that's communism! PLP calls for a mass, multiracial, working-class movement to fight for a communist world that will end sexism and racism once and for all.

Chickens come home to roost

Donald Trump and the other hack politicians backed by the Small Fascists are openly sexist and racist; they're Klanspeople in business suits. But beware of the Democratic Party liberals who swear their commitment to workers' rights—and then stab us in the back time after time. The liberals' longtime strategy is to pacify workers by masking the real ugliness of capitalism, which makes them the main danger to the international working class. No less treacherous are the pro-capitalist leaders of the historically racist and segregated feminist movement, led by the likes of admitted CIA agent Gloria Steinem, who pushed the idea that Black men are the enemies of Black women (Moguldom Nation, 6/29/21). The same goes for the "pro-choice" movement, whose founding icon Margaret Sanger was an open advocate of eugenics, a racist ideology (later adopted by the Nazis) that has led to the forced sterilization of hundreds of thousands of Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and immigrant women (pbs.org, 1/29/16). The legal foundation for this barbaric practice was laid by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1927 in Buck v. Bell (npr.org, 3/27/16).

The Big Fascists' lack of unity and discipline has come back to haunt them. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991, Jim Crow Joe Biden dismissed Anita Hill's testimony of blatant sexual harassment and cleared the way for arch-sexist Clarence Thomas's confirmation to the Supreme Court. More recently, liberal hero Ruth Bader Ginsburg selfishly refused to retire during Barack Obama's presidency, when the Democrats could have confirmed a pro-choice successor. (In 2019, a year before she died at 87, Ginsburg praised anti-abortion colleagues Brett Kavanaugh—another sexual predator—and Neil Gorsuch as "very decent and very smart" (cnn.com, 7/26/19), and singled out Kavanaugh for praise for hiring women as his law clerks.)

At this point, the bosses' state apparatus seems up for grabs. The Small Fascists have a death grip on the Supreme Court and have paralyzed Congress. They have mobilized their base in "red" states to control most of the state legislatures, which are now passing reams of anti-abortion laws while refusing to expand Medicaid or any reform that might benefit working women's health. The overturning of Roe—despite a large majority of workers who favor abortion rights—is a watershed moment in a volatile time. It undermines the legitimacy of the bosses' capitalist dictatorship, aka liberal demoracy. It throws a wrench into the Big Fascists' plans to win women workers to fight in the next world war. The liberal rulers will do their best to use the pro-choice movement to keep women workers inside their dead-end system by voting for Democrats in this fall's 2022 elections. Communists must be in that movement as well—to steer workers toward the fight for communism, the only way to abort this sexist, racist system.

Soviet Union championed womens workers'rights a century ago

More than one hundred years ago, revolutionary socialists and the old communist movement championed the liberation of women workers from the shackles of capitalist exploitation and inequality. International Working Women's Day, which grew out of mass, violent strikes led by female immigrant garment workers in the U.S., drew more than a million women and men into the streets in 1911. In Russia, mass anti-hunger and anti-war marches of women workers helped lead to the overthrow of the Tsarist government, a mass uprising that culminated in the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917.

Though in the midst of a three-year civil war, the Bolshevik-led government wasted no time in enshrining the equality of women workers. Even the capitalist press recently had to admit:

> *In 1920, Soviet Russia, which would become the Soviet Union in 1922, became the first country in the world to legalize abortion [G]overnment leaders were committed to building a new society in which men and women would have equal rights and opportunities, full employment and free healthcare and education. Through new laws, they established divorce at the request of either spouse, abolished the legal conception of illegitimacy and soon recognized cohabitation as the juridical equal of civil marriage. It was the most liberating legislation for women that the world had ever seen" (Los Angeles Times 1/4/22).*

Capitalist healthcare racist & sexist to the core

Like racism, sexism is essential to capitalism. The bosses use it both to divide workers and to super-exploit them. Internationally, women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, even less if they have children (UN Women). The Big Fascist liars, constantly promoting the U.S. as the "greatest country in the world," preside over a sexist, racist health care system that is exceptional only for its inability to serve workers' needs or protect their lives. The U.S. ranks behind 55 other countries for maternal mortality; its rate is four times as high as Japan's and ten times as high as Italy's. Because of racist inequalities, the rate is three times as high for Black women as for white women. Infant mortality rates in the U.S. show similar patterns–so much for the "right to life!" (CDC & CIA World Factbook) A capitalist system that cannot provide decent health care to the working class does not deserve to exist. It must be destroyed by communist revolution.

Communism will liberate all women workers

Over a century ago, a communist-led revolution in Russia revealed the power of the working class to break their chains and remake the history of humanity (see box). While PLP supports abortion on demand under capitalism, the true liberation of working-class women can only be achieved by the violent overthrow of the sexist capitalist ruling class. Under communism, as part of a fundamental commitment to women's health care, women would have access to abortion. But the conditions that make abortion necessary for so many women workers today—from poverty to a lack of decent child care–will no longer exist. With the elimination of money and wage slavery, free health care will be available to all. Free and collectivized child care will be the norm. That's the world that all workers need to fight for!✪

Student-parent-worker unity wins, more fights ahead

NEW JERSEY, July 5—Liberal fascist school bosses rehired a communist teacher after recognizing the growing support for that teacher. In mid-May, a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member was fired from the school where they teach, supposedly due to performance issues and budget cuts. In a community meeting organized to build fightback, the teacher's co-worker stated: "There is possibly no other teacher that the staff and the kids like more, and the administrators like less." The antiracist, pro-student and worker solidarity this teacher represents in this school emboldened the community to win back the job of this communist fighter! This fight also helped to strengthen the confidence that the teacher had in himself to build for a lifetime in the working class.

Students, parents, and co-workers take the lead

As word spread of the firing, many co-workers and students were adamant that the school needed this comrade. A former student who has consistently received CHALLENGE wrote a petition which received 44 signatures. A co-worker took the initiative to encourage several of her students, some of whom had been the comrade's students in the previous school year, to sign up to speak at the school board meeting at the end of May. This inspired the comrade to encourage several current students of their own as well as a couple of education workers from across the city to do the same. A parent, who has had CHALLENGE placed in her storefront since the pandemic, hosted a community meeting where a multiracial group of youth, parents, co-workers and community members showed up to plan further action during the last week of school.

Throughout this struggle many people shared wisdom regarding the way the capitalist education system had attacked them in the past. They shared lessons learned from the ways they fought back. In response to the growing fight back and a letter written by the teacher and fellow PL'ers, being self critical of the ways the teachers could perform better while also citing the pandemic and huge class sizes as a reason for difficulty in delivering data and lesson plans, the bosses decided to bring the teacher back.

Capitalist schools in decay, communities need to fight back!

This teacher was essentially fired for insubordination. The administrators forced students to remain outside in freezing temperatures while waiting for underpaid security guards to show and process them into the school building. This teacher was accused of allowing potentially dangerous kids into the building, therefore putting everyone else's life in danger. Our kids are not dangerous - this is the racist lie the bosses repeat over and over again. The real danger that threatens the lives of everyone in this and all school buildings is capitalism. A profit system where bosses abandon whole schools and the communities they serve when those particular kids and their families are no longer the most profitable to exploit. The resulting lack of resources leads school bosses to ramp up racist and sexist mistrust between staff and students, rather than compassion and community building.

Letting those students in and listening to them in the mornings allowed this teacher to deepen their understanding of who those kids really were and to build a working class culture of trust. It is this type of communist working class culture that the school community wanted to defend and the school administration wanted to get rid of.

Big Fascists mislead schools better than Small Fascists

The conditions of the school that fired this comrade reflect the main direction that Big Fascists (international finance capitalists, see GLOSSARY, page 6) have for the future of the international working class. This school is oftentimes the last stop for Black students whose needs and struggles have been ignored at all other schools in the city. It is also the landing spot for many undocumented students displaced by U.S. capitalists' search for cheap labor and imperialist profits in Latin America and the Caribbean. The families of this overall student population are exposed to racist and sexist treatment in housing, health care, and employment. The super-oppression experienced by these students and their families translates into a higher workload for the education workers who struggle to educate while the material needs of students are not being met.

It also encourages chronic staff shortages from teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, security guards, to teacher's aides who cannot bear the alienation.

The response of U.S. Small Fascist (domestic capitalists, see GLOSSARY, page 6) Republicans to contain the crises of capitalism reflected in these school conditions is to promote erasing the history of U.S. ruling class racist terror and working class antiracist heroism, and criminalizing education workers for encouraging youth to embrace the diversity within the working class. The leadership of U.S. Big Fascist Democrats, from Biden to the Mayor all the way down to the Principal of this particular school, who attacked our comrade, is a lot more dangerous for workers and youth to follow. Being Black, Latin, gay or liberal, all they preach about is phoney antiracism and the need for diversity. Yet, they use the tool of identity politics to fool some into thinking they are on our side. Then they lie that "they are doing the best that they can'' hoping to pacify our anger and stop us from organizing against the system they serve.

Fight to build communist consciousness

Worldwide, workers and students in schools under capitalism have the potential to help expose the sharpening divisions that weaken Big and Small Fascists' ability to conceal their attacks against our class and turn it into a communist revolution. Turning that potential into reality depends on the level of confidence we build in the working class. This happens when we fight, in small and large ways- as workers and youth with communist ideas - against the racist and sexist super-exploitation, divisions and attacks that weaken our class. Working class conscious fightback emboldens the masses that are increasingly linking their fight with the vision of PLP. This fightback gives everyone more confidence that one day we will smash capitalism with a system run by us for us, communism. ✪

Honor Harriet & reject the flag

BALTIMORE, July 4—Comrades in the Baltimore area organized a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) sponsored trip to Cambridge, MD, where we visited two museums—the community-built Harriet Tubman Museum & Educational Center, and the ruling class-run Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center—dedicated to the life and struggle of antiracist abolitionist, Harriet Tubman.

Despite the heavy holiday traffic—during the July 4 weekend, dedicated to hypocritical celebration of U.S. capitalist independence—family and friends of the Party made the most of the occasion.

Before the trip, one comrade gave a short speech on the significance of Tubman's—and many many others'—resistance to the institution of slavery, connecting her determination to the same attitude needed in the Party's fight for the upcoming sisterhood and brotherhood of a communist world.

It was also emphasized that, like Tubman herself, we need to be active in mass organizations, building bonds with a diverse array of workers, to knock down the oppressors of the world.

Tubman brave fighter, not a"saint"

As part of the experience at the museums, both included short films depicting the numerous escape plans, tactics, and accomplishments of Tubman. One was an animated film that children could watch, and another was a biopic of Tubman throughout her life.

A comrade noted that the films portrayed Tubman as one of the many U.S. heroes who upheld the patriotic ideals…of the ruling class. Paintings in the national park museum added to that propaganda: Harriet Tubman as the Statue of Liberty, and others in a style inspired by Andy Warhol's Marilyn Diptych series.

Some art critics say those particular paintings by Warhol were commenting on the saint-like nature that fans often assign to celebrities, which in turn causes the public to approach celebrities with some sense of holiness. But Harriet Tubman was neither a saint nor someone to whom we should give glory, while remaining meek ourselves. No, she was one among many highly inspiring leaders in the struggle against slavery, someone we should emulate, but not praise passively.

The irony of equating Tubman with patriotism—which means being loyal to a country and its bosses, instead of upholding communist loyalty to the working class and oppressed people of the whole world—did not go unnoticed.

"Strenghtening connections, struggle, and the Party"

Throughout the day, we enjoyed snacks, meals, and the scenery of rural Cambridge. Along the way, we also enjoyed each other's company and learned more about one another. At one point, a participant described his deep respect and appreciation for one of our comrades, from whom this participant has learned much about topics involving working class struggle and how they connect personally to his life.

We further connected through discussing family dynamics and history. This was of course the most significant part of the trip. Building connections with our working class family strengthens our bonds and deepens our respect for one another, making the Party stronger.

We ended our trip coming away with a more profound understanding and appreciation for the work that Tubman did. A strong-willed and compassionate woman, Tubman's life ended with her continued practice of support for those in need, despite her own financial insecurity.

Of course, her diligence—working with many others to smash the horrid institution of slavery—must be a reminder to all of us, who expect change, that one must be in the fight completely for the oppressed with no tolerance for indecision or betrayal. Let Tubman's leadership and legacy embolden the struggle for winning working-class state power and communism!✪

You can't smash the bosses without passing the hat!

The Progressive Labor Party unites the working class to learn to fight and fight to learn. This year's project is organized around connecting the struggles against police terror. Our goal is to raise our confidence that we are one world, one working class and capable of building a party to fight for communism! To donate, scan the QR code or go to www.plp.org and click, "donate." Follow us on social media! @PLPchallenge

PLP

Borders kill—workers have no nations!

On June 20, 53 migrants died horribly, abandoned in the back of a truck with no ventilation or water in 100 degree Texas heat (125-135 degrees inside the truck) having just crossed the border at Nuevo Laredo, Texas. A comrade's son called him from Peru to tell him the news before his father had even learned of it in New York City. The world's working class watched in horror how the migrants died. Small Fascist (see Glossary on page 6) MAGA aligned Texas governor Greg Abbott blamed Joe Biden for his "open border policy." Racist liberal fascist Biden said "No grandstanding… [we] need to go after criminal trafficking rings." The three smugglers currently live in Bexar County, Texas near San Antonio. Their business in the profit driven system is collecting thousands of dollars from migrants to turn them over as cheap labor to U.S. bosses. Workers' lives are cheap under capitalism, unlike the products that workers buy.

The international working class doesn't need politicians, Congressional hearings, and courts to know that capitalism, with its racist borders, is guilty of racist genocide. The working class doesn't need borders. We need to run the world based on our needs with no racist, sexist profiteering. Under communism workers will go wherever needed to build an egalitarian world. As the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) chant says, "The only solution is a communist revolution!"

Imperialism: A Genocidal System

The migrants who died were from Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, including 20 who have not yet been identified. The workers were forced to flee their homes due to poverty, exploitation, terror, and devastation of resources, becoming victims of imperialism. Vladimir Lenin called imperialism the highest stage of capitalism when top capitalists seize control of labor, resources and markets of countries outside their borders. Their fascist tactics include control of production, monetary control, fake elections to install puppet governments, orchestrated coups and full blown invasions. Twenty migrants died in the Libyan desert of their war stricken country because of rivalry between major imperialist countries, the U.S., China and Russia. U.S. imperialists imposed sanctions on Iraq in the 1990s which led to the death of a half a million children followed by U.S. invasion of Iraq to steal their oil.

If or when migrants make it to the U.S. or other capitalist countries in Europe, they face new horrors: super exploitation, racism, terror, deportation and possible death. The capitalist controlled media brands them as "criminal illegals" and on the other side of the coin, the liberals cry and make false promises. The world's capitalists are gangsters on the planet, setting and breaking their own rules at will. Imperialism is guilty of the deaths of the migrants in Texas as well as millions more worldwide. The international working class needs a communist revolution where we organize society based on our needs not on profit.

Crisis at the border

There is a massive caravan of workers and their families and unaccompanied children walk-

Continued on page 5

Racist Melila massacre of migrants

Four days after the bodies of our Latin American brothers and sisters were discovered in an abandoned trailer in Texas, the bosses' deadly borders claimed the lives of more workers— this time in Melilla and Ceuta, two Spanish enclaves on the North Africa-Spanish border (hrw.org, 6/30).

On June 24, 37 migrant workers, all men from Sub-saharan Africa fleeing capitalist-created poverty and famine, were brutally beaten to death by police forces as they attempted to scale the border fence that divides Morocco from Spain. The Spanish Guardia Civil fired tear gas at hundreds of fleeing migrants. Those left behind were savagely clubbed. Graphic images of our Black brother's mangled bodies left in pools of blood, rotting for hours in the sun expose the rotten racism of global capitalist nations and their borders (hrw.org, 6/30). The Melila massacre is the deadliest episode in a long history of the Moroccan and Spanish bosses' brutality against Black African migrants seeking refuge in Europe (hrw.org, 2/10/14).

The Morrocan bosses have agreed to be Spain's border attack dog in exchange for regional independence (The New Arab, 7/4). Spain's rulers have learned well from their savage imperialist partners in the U.S., and have recently begged NATO to help them beef up the racist, fascist border security (Voanews, 7/5), calling the recent uptick in Black African migrants seeking asylum as a security threat. The vicious treatment of African migrants is in sharp contrast to the treatment received by the 75,000 Ukrainian migrants the Spanish government welcomed with open arms (La Moncloa, 4/26).

The Melilla massacre is a warning that as inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens in Europe, so too will fascism. The Spanish bosses' war against African workers is an extension of the miserable conditions faced by workers in Spain where unemployment is the highest in Europe (FEE.org, 02/27). The massacre further exposes the fact that liberal fascists from Spain's social democratic President Pedro Sanchez to the U.S. Big Fascist in Chief Joe Biden are the main threat facing our class.

As inflation, climate catastrophes, famine, and war choke our class, more workers will be forced to flee capitalist violent conditions. Sadly, this isn't the last of the horrific violence we witnessed in Melila and Texas. The only way to put an end to the misery that displaces and kills workers is to build a communist world in which profits and racist borders cease to exist.

Book Review

'Workers deserve a real communist life'

Beautiful Country (2021) by Qian Julie Wang is a memoir of a seven-year-old girl from China growing up with her immigrant parents in Brooklyn, New York beginning in 1994. Events described in her book provide an opportunity to reflect on what happened in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) in China from 1966 to 1969.

In Brooklyn Qian and her family lived in constant fear of being deported. They lived in unsafe apartments and worked at stifling low-paid jobs under racist and sexist attack. Qian was often hungry. She also felt the sting of racist teachers at the school she attended who felt that she was not capable of writing the papers that she turned in. Her story is full of beautiful heart-wrenching observations of life for a young person growing up in the underbelly of a racist capitalist city.

Qian was born in China in 1987. Her parents were professors at a university. The book begins with a reference to her father's older brother, who as a teenager in 1969, had criticized Chairman Mao Zedong in writing, "for manipulating the innocent people of China by pitting them against one another to centralize his power."

She explains further, "My uncle had naively, heroically, and stupidly distributed the essay to the public." She tells of how there was no high school graduation for him, only "starvation and torture behind prison walls."Her father spent his childhood standing in front of the class every day as his teachers and classmates berated him and his treasonous family. But to be "treasonous" during the GPCR was to be for communism without any compromises with capitalism such as wages and inequality. Was Qian's uncle a Red Guard (young communists who challenged the Chinese Communist Party leaders)?

Class struggle during the Cultural Revolution

If Qian and her family's account is to be considered credible, it poses the need for legitimate reflection about the GPCR and the state of working-class power during that period. In the April 27th issue of CHALLENGE, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) listed the GPCR along with the October Revolution and the Chinese Revolution as the three greatest achievements of the communist movement in the 20th century. But the scope and intensity of class struggle in China at the time of the GPCR was layered and complex.

PLP in that period published a magazine article titled "The Reversal of Workers' Power in China." This article from 1971 points out that the official interpretation of the GPCR from the Communist Party of China was that 95 percent of the Party members were revolutionary and only a small handful of "capitalist roaders" had wormed themselves into the Party. This picture said that the left-wing forces led by Mao and those around him only had to defeat these few renegades on the right.

But the official documents about the GPCR also mention that there were many workers, students, and peasants called the "extreme leftists" who attacked all the leading cadres. The PLP article points out these extreme leftists were not a few isolated sects scattered around the country. They were a mass movement of dedicated communists that often included demobilized members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Some sources say that there were 30-40 million people in their movement. One of their beliefs was that "China was already in the hands of a bourgeois ruling class." This so-called "extreme left" was crushed by the government and army between 1967 and July 1968.

It seems very likely that Qian's uncle was a part of this massive leftist movement which sounds a lot like the political line of PLP. We also want to go straight to communism after taking state power, establishing social equality and not relying on wages and maintaining inequality like China did under Mao's leadership.

If Qian has her story right, her uncle and father's treatment as young people are clear signals that communist politics and principles were not leading China – capitalist politics were. For example, there are stories of how magnanimous the communist soldiers in China were in battle during the civil war before taking power. After a battle with the Kuomintang (the soldiers in the Chinese bosses' army), the Red Army would talk to those they captured. They would tell them to "quit doing what they were doing" and fight for the working class instead. Then they were released! It gave the Red Army a great reputation.

Also in the famous book *Fanshen*, William Hinton describes in great detail the lives of peasant workers in one little village and how things developed during the revolution. The communist cadre had to "pass the gate" – that is, stand before all the villagers and criticize themselves and be criticized by the villagers to be stronger and make things better. Nobody was tortured or starved.

Qian Julie Wang's book shows that working people all over the world deserve a real communist life, that life under capitalist roaders whether in China, the U.S., or anywhere, leads only to imperialist war, racism, poverty, and many other attacks. Learning our history well and building the Party will help us create a communist future.✪

Part 9: Black communists in Spanish Civil War

Milton connects Scottsboro struggle to Spain

This is part nine of a series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s the urban bourgeoisie (capitalists) of Spain, supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to reestablish the repressive monarchy. Hitlers Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the Comintern, headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers, mainly workers from more than 60 countries into the International Brigades (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. Black workers, especially Black communists, emphasized the importance of fighting racism to win anything for the working class. And they brought this antiracist fightback with them when they returned to the United States. They were building a movement they hoped would lead to communist revolution around the world. They succeeded in organizing millions around communist ideas and practices. But the movement believed that uniting with liberal bosses to defend the Republic in Spain would further the fight for communism. This was part of the united front against fascism, which resulted in only fortifying the bosses system and laid the basis for the corruption of the old communist movement.

In the Progressive Labor Party, we are against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers' leadership is essential. That is the only way our class can destroy racism, the lifeblood of capitalism. The following is a story of one such leader, Milton Herndon.

Hendron joins the Communist Party

Milton Herndon was born on March 10, 1908, in Wyoming, Ohio to Paul Herndon, a coal miner, and Harriet Herndon, a maid. After completing two years of high school Herndon went to work as a steelworker. He also served 18 months in the National Guard. Herndon exemplified the internationalism of the communist movement and the importance of Black workers leading the class struggle, not just against the U.S, capitalists, but for the international working class.

He joined the Communist Party in 1934 and became an organizer in Chicago. In July, 1934, Herndon wrote of the struggles of the Black, single, jobless workers of Harlem in the magazine Hunger Fighter, published by the Communist-led United Action Conference on Work, Relief, and Unemployment (price 3 cents). Other articles exposed Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia's cops who clubbed and jailed demonstrators on May 26, 1934.

On September 1, 1934, Herndon was arrested with three other Black and white workers while picketing the Empire Cafeteria on Lenox Avenue and 125thStreet, in Harlem. The demonstration was organized by the Young Liberators Club of Harlem, a Communist-led group. They protested the refusal of Empire Cafeteria's bosses to hire Black workers in

any other job except porter.

Hendron dies fighting fascism in Spain

Herndon continued his organizing efforts until he volunteered with other Communist Party members to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Using the alias "Milton Braxton" he departed for Europe on May 8, 1937.

In Spain, Herndon became section leader in the newly-formed Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigades. He fought in the battles at Brunete in July, 1937, and at Belchite, on the Aragon front, in October.

During the Mac-Paps' first action on October 13, 1937, at Fuentes de Ebro, Herndon was ordered to move a machine gun up to support the advance of the Battalion. In carrying out the order Herndon was killed along with his entire gun team by long-range machine gun fire. He was 29 years old.

Hendron's last letter

A few days later, his last letter was received by Anna Damon, secretary of the International Labor Defense, The ILD was a legal advocacy organization established in 1925 in the United States as the American section of the Comintern's International Red Aid network. The ILD defended Sacco and Vanzetti, was active in the anti-lynching, movements for civil rights, and prominently participated in the defense and legal appeals in the cause célèbre of the Scottsboro Boys in the early 1930s. Its work contributed to the appeal of the Communist Party among African Americans in the South. In addition to fundraising for defense and assisting in defense strategies, from January 1926 it published Labor Defender, a monthly illustrated magazine that achieved wide circulation.

Here are some excerpts from that letter, published in the Communist Party's newspaper Daily Worker on October 21, 1937. They give some indication of Milton Herndon's dedication to the fight against racism and fascism.

We Americans who are fighting in Spain greeted with great joy the success of the ILD and its many friends in freeing four of the nine Scottsboro boys Yesterday we, the members of the Frederick Douglass Machine Gun Company, had a meeting and explained to our Spanish comrades the importance of joining the American ILD in its fight for the freedom of the remaining five Scottsboro boys. One of them replied in broken English: "When we get through with Franco we will go back to the states with you and help to drive out the anti-democratic forces in your country." …

… I believe it is possible to obtain aid for the suffering people in Spain by building a world people's defense movement against the horrors, the desperate slaughter and injustice of world capitalism.

The letter ends:

Comradely yours, Milton Herndon

P.S. Fascist planes just flew overhead and dropped some bombs.

The effort of Herndon to bring the struggle to free the Scottsboro Boys to workers in Spain, was a powerful example of international working class unity. The working class is involved in a single unified struggle against capitalism. But the capitalists are constantly trying to divide us. None more so than the fake leftists who are always trying to separate the people fighting back into smaller and smaller groups and smaller and smaller struggles.

Even as he was battling in Spain, Herndon understood the anti-racist struggle for the Scottsboro Boys was the front line and put communist ideas into practice. He saw his role in Spain was to expand the understanding and unity of the working class struggle across the bosses racist divisions and capitalist borders.

Richard Wright, later famous as the author of such books as *Native Son* and *Uncle Tom's Children,* and at this time an active member of the Communist Party, wrote three unsigned articles about Herndon for the Daily Worker. One of them announces the formation of the "Negro People's Committee for Medical Aid to Republican Spain," made up of medical doctors and others in Harlem. He wrote that "The organization of this committee was the result of the death of a number of American Negroes in Spain, particularly that of Milton Herndon …"

In a November 29, 1937 article Wright wrote that Ms Audley Moore, Chairman of the Woman's Commission of the Upper Harlem Section of the Communist Party, stated:

I can think of no finer tribute to Milton Herndon than build the Communist Party *which fights for that democracy for which Milton gave his life in Spain.*

In the November 27, 1937 Daily Worker Wright wrote about the large number of prominent leaders of civic and anti-racist organizations who were scheduled to speak at the memorial service for Milton Herndon on November 28 at a Harlem Church.

Sources:

Daily Worker

New York Times, 10/20/1937

ALBA-VALB biography

Earle Bryant, Byline: Richard Wright (2015)

Frederick Griffiths, in African-American Review, Winter 2001.

Bosses' genocidal system kills migrant workers

Continued from page 4

hundreds of miles to the U.S. / Mexico border to flee the devastation of capitalism in their countries of origin. More than 1,000 have died at the border so far this year. The majority of those who manage to cross are caught by border control and deported, with exceptions that include workers from Cuba, Venezuela, and the Ukraine. Most borders in the world are aflame due to war and emigration. The bosses use borders to restrict or increase the number of migrant workers into given countries, keeping them as a form of cheap labor to super-exploit, as their needs determine.e Borders also enforce racist ideas among workers that "other" workers are dangerous, untrustworthy, and out to steal their jobs, sowing further division amongst the working class. Since 1986 U.S. bosses Employers Sanctions Provision, Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) has functioned to criminalize undocumented workers, forcing them to work in the shadows under terrible working conditions for measly wages. IRCA has also had the effect of lowering wages for all workers and keeping unemployment high, particularly among Black workers.

Our PLP group is struggling with the immigrant community group we're in to react to the migrant deaths as well as talking with our study group and distributing CHALLENGE. It is in this process of class struggle and fightback on our jobs, in our neighborhoods and networks that we grow our Party into a powerful multiracial class conscious fighting force for international communist revolution.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Ecuador: strike vs. capitalist crisis

On June 13 here in Quito, Ecuador, a mobilization began towards the capital in response to the call of the Conaie Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CCINE) for a national strike against the neoliberal government of Guillermo Lasso. The strike and march on the capitol have been triggered by rising fuel prices and transportation costs, unemployment, massive layoffs, and budget cuts for health and education. Added to this is an escalation of violence by the uniformed officers towards the population, even going so far as to sign a cooperation agreement with the U.S. A bill presented in the United States Senate recently called again, "to Strengthen ties of the Association between the United States and Ecuador," but with the U.S. in charge.

Other sectors have joined the strike, although timidly. The brutal repression in October 2019, under the regime of then-President Lenin Moreno is still present. The leader of CCINE, Conaie Leonidas Iza, was violently arrested and kidnapped for 10 hours, but the mobilization is being strengthened day by day, with strikers more resolved to see that their 10 demands are met and many calling for the resignation of the President.

The mass media portray the indigenous people as violent coup plotters, trying to turn public opinion against the national strike. Spanish-language media outside the country has given little or no importance to this crisis.

But the violence and repression come from the government through its Decree 455 that established a state of emergency for certain provinces, allowing the use of lethal weapons by the uniformed police and military against protesters, court intervention and internet blocking. All this shows how the government serves imperialism and the local capitalists.

Thousands of workers in Ecuador are protesting, claiming their right to enjoy the benefits they produce, demanding better education, better health services, a better system of protection for citizens, not repression towards them, but above all respect for their humanity with better living conditions, including employment with wages that support good living. We are the ones who produce and run everything, therefore we demand respect that our work and production be valued. But the only way we can ever enjoy the fruits of our collective labor is when we take power away from the bosses with communist revolution, and produce for our needs, not for their profits.

★★★★★

Capitalist atrocities, not just statistics

I read the article "Racist bosses further displace homeless workers" in CHALLENGE, 6/8/22. Soon after I read the article, I had a conversation about homelessness with a friend, a working class tenant who recently began reading CHALLENGE. These two things made me think of the similarities between the struggles of housed and unhoused workers both in the U.S. and around the world.

Here in Los Angeles County, the official "Point-in Time" count of the homeless population in 2020 was 66,436. According to Dr. Margot Kushel of UC-San Francisco, this number is likely an undercount because the vast majority of unhoused here are "unsheltered," meaning they live outdoors, and are therefore more difficult to count. Homelessness is deadly. Almost 2,000 unhoused workers in LA County died from April 2020 through March 2021, a 56 percent increase from the 12 months before the pandemic began (NY Times 4/25/22).

But for the working class, homelessness is an international plague which has skyrocketed worldwide during the pandemic economic crisis. For example, between 2014 and 2019, official government statistics show a 50 percent increase in the numbers of homeless workers in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city. On the ground homeless advocates say those numbers went up further from 25,000 before the pandemic to 60,000 at the end of last year. Mass racist unemployment of 13 percent and falling worker incomes have forced more and more workers in Brazil into the streets (voanews.com 12/20/21).

In Inglewood, California (a predominantly Black and Latin city adjacent to Los Angeles), long-term racist unemployment, gentrification and displacement are everywhere and have vastly increased the homeless population. Meanwhile, Inglewood's mayor and City Council, who passed a punitive "anti-camping" ordinance in 2021, have been the main cheerleaders for the new multi-billion dollar football stadium (SoFi) and a new multi-billion dollar basketball arena (Intuit Dome).

A public campaign forced these Inglewood politicians to enact rent control in 2019, but the ordinance has loopholes benefitting landlords. Because the ordinance allows vacancy decontrol, landlords have an incentive to refuse to make basic repairs, forcing tenants to move and then jacking up the new rents. The Tenants' Union that I am part of has been organizing against evictions of tenants unable to pay rent, and to demand repairs for apartments with unlivable conditions. Union members have worked closely with a number of tenants, including my friend.

After my friend called me, we met outside the apartment complex and he walked me to a vacant lot near where he lives. In the middle of the lot, was a makeshift shelter dug underground along with a couch and some large plastic bags with belongings. The shelter had clearly been bull-dozed, maybe by the City. Standing from the back of the lot and looking out, one could clearly see So-Fi Stadium in the background. My friend asked me to take a picture of that scene. He said that the picture "is worth a thousand words" and shows "where we're at." Afterwards, I sent the picture to the Union text chat, describing it as "the latest atrocity of capitalism".

Not long after, my friend and one other tenant who the union has been working with received summonses to go to eviction court. Conditions in their apartments were so bad that both failed the annual inspection by a city-run rent subsidy program. When the landlord adamantly refused to make repairs, the City stopped paying its portion of the rent. The Tenants' Union is organizing to support both tenants and to prevent yet two more workers from becoming statistics in the local homeless count. My friend sees the connection between racist gentrification, billionaire-funded "redevelopment," displacement and homelessness. I will continue the political struggle with him and other tenants about why we need communist revolution around the world to end racist unemployment, homelessness, and the commodification of human needs like housing.

★★★★★

'Profit is the name of the game'

On June 21 members and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined hundreds of tenants in a spirited protest against rent hikes in New York City. As we chanted with the Housing Coalition we carried signs saying "Capitalism = Homelessness" and "Contra desalojos, tenemos que luchar" and distributed 77 copies of CHALLENGE. One friend joined PLP and another is seriously considering it.

Black, Asian, Latin and white working class tenants united inside the auditorium where nine mayoral appointees on the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) met to vote on rent increases for over one million rent stabilized apartments in NYC. Tenants were angry when less than half of the protesters got inside because we didn't know to bring proof of vaccination against Covid-19.

The week before the RGB vote tenants protested at the Brooklyn building owned by mayor/landlord Eric Adams. Adams argued that landlords like him need rent increases. Adams has overwhelming backing from the NYC real estate industry.

Since the politicians lifted the rent moratorium put in place during the pandemic there are 230,000 eviction cases for unpaid rent, which tenants can't pay in NYC courts. Tenants are organizing to monitor cases in court, but we need a much stronger fight back. Nearly 50,000 women, men and children are homeless in NYC while racist mayor Adams has ordered cops to clear the homeless out of the subways and destroyed 239 encampments in the city.

In the end the RGB gave the landlords their increases. Like our chant says, "Adams, landlords all the same, Profits is the name of their game!" The working class housing crisis will explode so long as the working class allows this racist, profit driven capitalist system with its enormous inequalities to exist! We need revolution! Only communism with workers' power and PLP can fight for housing for our class. The struggle is long! We remain determined!

★★★★★

Red on radio: 'U.S. is a capitalist dictatorship'

I got on WBAI radio New York for the last five minutes of the July 4 "What's Going On" program at 7 am which was discussing the failures of the capitalist economy today. The supposedly anti-capitalist economists like R.Wolff and others were providing excellent statistics about the reasons for the problems of workers today. When I spoke for a brief five minutes, I asked why the speakers never mentioned that the US is a capitalist dictatorship and that the capitalists' fear of the working class they discussed is not only of the power workers represent but on how communist ideas and organizing in the 1930s forced capitalists under threat of communist revolution to pay for the many working class survival benefits that have mostly been taken back today. I said real anti-capitalists today need to call for a communist revolution for workers' dictatorship.

To access the useful statistical information from the program you can search the WBAI "What's Going On" archive for July 4. However, good statistics must be coupled with the correct political analysis, which is provided by the revolutionary Progressive Labor Party.

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Rest in power

Fernando, staunch antiracist fighter

Fernando Braga was born on August 26, 1982. As a child, he moved with his mother from Brazil to the Bronx. He went to Brooklyn Technical High School where he first became politically active in the fight against racism and mistreatment of students. Fernando's first antiracist struggle came in helping organize his fellow students who wanted to re-create a "Media" major at Brooklyn Tech. High School. When the class first told their teacher what they wanted in the major, the teacher told them that they needed the students to work together with him to create this Media major. Fernando was a leader in not just figuring out what to do but in actually doing the work which also motivated the other students.

At Brooklyn Tech Fernando met Progressive Labor Party (PLP). Fernando said he had always known that we needed an antiracist, antisexist, completely egalitarian society and started organizing for PLP at Brooklyn Tech.

Antiracist student leader

In 1999 a Black 23-year-old student worker, Amadou Diallo, was murdered by the NYPD. He was shot 41 times by cops in front of his apartment while reaching for his wallet. Students from high schools around the city walked out and joined the many protests demanding justice. Fernando was one of the leaders of a large group that met after school and discussed fighting against racism, imperialist war and for true equality.

The group at Brooklyn Tech along with a similar group from Clara Barton High School decided to organize a demonstration. Fernando and two others presented a proposal to a "progressive" sanctioned school club to have a walk-out. The advisor was afraid of a walk-out. The students decided to do it anyway. After they handed out a flyer, there was push-back and threats from the administration. Fernando and other students came up with the idea of stickers. The school is six stories high. Most students couldn't take the elevators and the stairwells were plastered with the walk-out stickers.

On the day of the demonstration well over 2500 students walked out. Classes were empty. A massive group from Brooklyn Tech joined students from Clara Barton at Fulton Square in downtown Brooklyn. After a student-led rally in the square, hundreds crossed the Brooklyn Bridge to go into Manhattan. Of course, a militant, multiracial demonstration didn't make the news except in CHALLENGE.

Fighting the bosses on the battlefield

While in high school, Fernando developed a passion for films and screenwriting. He pursued this love as a film major at Hunter College. While at Hunter, Fernando, a member of the National Guard, was deployed to Iraq. While there he started writing a movie called Broken Soldier. In Iraq Fernando became a leader in his unit and looked out for the interests of his fellow soldiers and workers from Iraq as well.

While out on a convoy his unit came upon a truck stopped in the road with a group of Iraqis standing beside it. His Platoon Sergeant tried to force the Iraqis to move the truck. When they didn't he told the platoon to get ready to fire on them. Fernando, who spoke no Arabic, made eye contact with one of the Iraqis who signaled him that the truck was broken and couldn't be moved. Fernando understood the message and was able to stop the Sergeant from opening fire. The unit moved on and left the Iraqi workers to fix their truck.

Upon returning from Iraq Fernando became active in Iraq Veterans Against the War and was instrumental in creating the Winter Soldier II hearings. This conference, modeled after the anti-Vietnam War conference from the 70's, included testimony about U.S. atrocities in Iraq from soldiers and Iraqis as well.

A working-class champion until the end

Fernando was also a NYC Transit worker and proud member of the Transit Workers Union (TWU). He distributed CHALLENGE newspapers to his friends on the job and talked to them about fighting for communism. He was involved in several job actions when his safety and the safety of his coworkers were threatened. He also took pride in his work and enjoyed playing poker and dominos with his coworkers.

In 2013 Fernando went to Vassar College as part of the first group of veterans to attend Vassar since the end of WWII. He became a popular student who helped act as a bridge between the veterans and traditional Vassar students. On campus Fernando worked hard at his studies, learning Chinese and earning his Bachelor's degree. He became a leader on campus who introduced people to communist ideas and participated in fights against racism.

On June 10 around 100 people gathered in Brooklyn to remember Fernando and to celebrate his life and his commitment to the working class. Many of those who knew him from high school, college, the military, and loved ones, including his young daughter, shared their memories. He will be missed.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Mexico's workers murdered as capitalists divvy up drug profits

The Economist, 6/30–In May Mexico's official tally of missing people exceeded 100,000. Some 52,000 unidentified corpses lie in morgues across the country. Narcotics are popular but illegal nearly everywhere. Mexico has a long land border with the United States, the world's biggest market. Control of smuggling routes generates vast profits, which criminal gangs fight to control. Some seek to intimidate rivals by dumping fresh corpses in the street…Victims are abducted, murdered and buried in lonely patches of desert. The problem is getting worse…The victims are mostly poor, and many are gangsters. The only people who have doggedly tried to find the disappeared are their mothers. Groups of relatives have clubbed together to interview witnesses, search for mass graves and fill the gap left by an indifferent state. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico's president since 2018,…has told the army not to confront drug gangs. The violence has intensified and the pace of disappearances has increased.

Bigger war in Middle East becomes more likely

Foreign Affairs, 7/1–There is a last gasp effort underway to revive stalled talks between the United States and Iran on restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal aimed at preventing the Islamic Republic from being able to develop a nuclear weapon…Tehran has accelerated its program and will soon become a threshold nuclear state…Israel, however, has long promised that it will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran…Israel has assassinated Iranian scientists and military officials. It has conducted air attacks on Iranian targets in Syria… With American backing, the Israelis are also seeking to organize a number of Arab states into a military alliance against Iran… the Biden administration is, in effect, handing over the task of containing Iran to Israel.

While Israel is going on offense, Iran is seeking to buy time. By avoiding direct confrontation with Israel, Tehran can fortify its nuclear program, enhance its missile and drone program, and expand its military capabilities in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen…Iran is attacking Israel, mostly through proxies such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Iran is also showing a growing willingness to target Israeli intelligence outposts close to its borders and increase the costs to states that facilitate Israeli operations against Iran.

Russian and Ukrainian Bosses turn Black Sea industrial region into vast wasteland

Guardian, 7/2–Russian-backed forces stepped up their assault on the Ukrainian city of Lysychansk on Saturday, as they claimed to have "completely" encircled the last stronghold in the Luhansk region. If Lysychansk falls, the entire region of Luhansk – which along with Donetsk makes up the eastern Donbas region – could come under Russian control, marking another strategic breakthrough…a number of powerful explosions rocked the city of Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine early on Saturday… Mykolaiv, which borders the vital port of Odessa, is regarded by Moscow as a strategic target in order to reach its goal to annex Ukraine's Black Sea coast, making Ukraine a "non-sea country."

NATO prepares for war with China

New York Times, 7/1–China, NATO declared, was a systemic "challenge," calling out the country for the first time in its mission statement. The country's policies were "coercive." Together with Russia, Beijing was striving to "subvert the rules-based international order," the alliance said — efforts that "run counter to our values and interests."

For Beijing, the forceful declaration by NATO reinforced a sense that China is being encircled by hostile powers bent on hobbling the country's ascent. Adding to that concern, the NATO summit included, also for the first time, the leaders of four Asia-Pacific countries: South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Chinese officials angrily rebuked NATO, accusing the alliance of using Cold War strategies to contain the country. On Wednesday, an unnamed spokesman for China's mission to the European Union accused NATO of "provoking confrontation" and vowed to respond with "firm and strong" measures. The mission statement "claims that other countries pose challenges," read the statement. "But it is NATO that is creating problems around the world."

SHUT THIS RACIST SYSTEM DOWN

Continued from page 1

occurrences. CHALLENGE was a vital tool in this fight from the start. There is also an annual basketball tournament in honor of Shantel and Kiki (see below). The family and local PL'ers have become an integrated part of each other's lives.

Kimani "Kiki" Gray: Less than a year later, on March 9, 2013, the police in East Flatbush on East 52nd Street murdered this 16-year-old student, not far from where Shantel was murdered. Kiki was just leaving a friend's party. Police fired eleven shots at the teenager, hitting him seven times, three times in the back. Justified anger ignited the East Flatbush rebellion, and the bosses' instated a curfew, came out with helicopters and riot police.

Kyam Livingston: A few months later, in July 2013, a 37-year-old mother of two was killed out of medical neglect at a holding cell at Brooklyn central booking on Schermerhorn St. to await arraignment with 15 other women. The police let her suffer in pain for seven hours, each minute in time she went through a slow torture as her life drained away and she received no help from the callous jailors. She even had seizures. She and the other women in the cell with her were told, "shut up or we'll lose your paperwork!" This is what a human life is worth in this system. We were able to sustain monthly rallies decrying this racist system. The family is a strong presence on May Day, and more.

One lesson from this struggle is that fightback is the best form of self-care. The bosses' forces constantly sold passivity and isolation. The Party's unbending confidence in the ability of women workers to channel anger into leading our class was confirmed throughout our struggle.

NEWARK, NJ

Rodwell-Spivey Brothers:This is a story of four brothers targeted for breathing while Black. Two brothers were looking at clothes from a mobile vendor in front of their house when two undercover kkkops attacked the brothers. The killer kkkops later claimed they were searching for a Black man wearing a white t-shirt with dreads, but nothing under this capitalist system is coincidental or a mistake when Black workers worldwide are super-exploited and jailed on a mass scale.

When the cops attacked, their other two brothers rushed out in concern. Now, four brothers—Justin Rodwell, Branden K. Rodwell, Jaykill Rodwell, and Jasper Spivey—are all facing possible jail time. Justin, who came out to defend his younger brothers, is still being detained as he awaits trial in Essex County Jail. On the outside, the family is constantly surveilled and harassed by the police.

From protests and meetings to backyard BBQs, PLP is working to build relationships with the family and antiracists.

CHICAGO, IL

Jeremey "Mohawk" Johnson: On August 15, 2020, the klan-in-blue viciously attacked demonstrators at a protest calling to defund the Chicago Police Department and abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Mohawk was caught up in the fray and arrested. Even after posting bail, he was still held three days in jail before being released on house arrest with an ankle monitor. He's been charged for allegedly hitting a cop.

The Chicago bosses' terrorization of Mohawk may have been a tool to pacify the working class. Instead, this has turned into a campaign to Free Mohawk and further expose the inherently violent system that is capitalism.

Big Fascists, biggest danger

What insidious is that this is occurring under the watchful eye of liberal politicians. Every city's mayor—Newark's Ras Baraka (Black), Chicago's Lori Lightfoot (gay Black woman), Los Angeles's Eric Garcetti (white, liberal), and New York City's previous Bill de Blasio (white, phony left) and current Eric Adams (Black)—represent the Big Fascists.

Following the mass George Floyd uprisings, the bosses talked about "defunding the police." But now with President 'Jim Crow' Joe Biden's blessing, all these Democratic-led cities have increased their police budget and cut funding for necessities like education and healthcare (Quartz, 1/25).

Since the worldwide, antiracist 2014 Ferguson uprising under former liberal Big Fascist president Barack Obama, and the 2020 George Floyd uprisings, under the gutter racist presidency of Donald Trump, the liberal Big Fascist wing of the ruling class has ushered in Black municipal leadership to squelch working-class rebellion. They feed workers phony radical faces in high places as a win, and dupe many into believing a sliver of the decaying American pie is the best our class can do for survival.

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including banks, oil companies, media, and industry—Chase and Citibank, ExxonMobil, Boeing, Amazon, The New York Times, and more. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

The Big Fascists are confronted with a huge contradiction. On the one hand, they need racist police terror to keep the masses in check; on the other, they need these same Black and Latin youth to fight in their unending imperialist wars. The bosses can never resolve their contradiction. The job of communists and friends of the PLP is to sharpen the contradiction—and ultimately to smash the bosses—by winning workers to fight back in multiracial unity.

PLP cautions workers that the rising volatility between imperialist bosses in China, Russia and U.S, will continue to fester and explode into world war, and Black and Latin youth will be missile food forced to die for the bosses' profits. The only hope of the working class is to build a class-conscious multiracial movement to smash capitalism and fight for communism, freeing the world from starvation, exploitation, racist politicians and their kkkops.

Build PLP

Whenever workers fight back, our Party aims to be shoulder-to-shoulder in struggle. A strength of the work within this struggle against police terror has been the base building—PL's involvement in the fightback is more than the agitation in the streets, it has been the equally if not more essential work of bringing these families closer to the Party. Building strong relationships is a sign of our seriousness, love of the working class, and our commitment to fighting for a communist world that drives us.

The worldwide working class, led by Progressive Labor Party, must persevere to build a mass, antiracist, anti-imperialist movement. We must struggle against frustration and cynicism. We must stay the course with both communist urgency and communist patience. There are no shortcuts to revolution.

The bosses will never give up state power voluntarily. We need millions to join us worldwide and take it from them. Join PLP, and fight back! The future is bright; we must make it so. ✪

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of July 15TH.** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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